

## Exegetical Notes - Luke 8:26-39

### “Demons”

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### Luke 8:26-39

#### Verse 26-27

*Thy sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but lived in the tombs.*

- After the storm had passed, Jesus and his disciples landed safely on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. (See 8:22-25)
- When they landed, Jesus encountered a man who was possessed by a demon or evil spirit. This spirit caused the man to live in the tombs and to run around naked all the time.

#### Verse 28-29

*When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!” For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.*

- The evil spirit recognized Jesus as God’s son. But he refused to leave the man even when Jesus told him to do so.
- The spirit caused the man to convulse and to run away from those who cared for him. It caused him to be violent and gave sufficient strength to break the restraints placed on the man by those who were responsible for his care.

### **Verse 30-31**

***Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “Legion,” he replied because many demons had gone into him. And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.***

- Jesus asked the man to tell him his name. But the man was not in control of himself. So it is the chief demon in him who responds to Jesus. He does not give Jesus his name or the man’s name but confesses that he cannot answer Jesus’ question because the man is possessed by many evil spirits.
- The spirits know that they must obey Jesus because he is the Son of God. However, they beg Jesus not to torture them (verse28) and not to send them into the Abyss.
- In Revelation 9 the Abyss is mentioned. It is a place where such spirits as this are held in confinement. These spirits are desperate not to be sent there.

### **Verse 32-33**

***A large heard of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.***

- Jews were forbidden to eat pigs (Leviticus 11:7-8), but this area had a large population of non-Jews. Pigs were raised by these people for consumption.
- Jesus agreed to allow the demons controlling the man to leave him and take control of the pigs. When they did, the pigs evidenced the same crazy behavior as had the man when the demons controlled him. They rushed into the sea and were drowned.

### **Verse 34-37**

***When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus’ feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.***

- The demon-possessed man was cured. But the people of that place asked Jesus to leave the region because they were afraid of him.

Though he had done a good thing by curing the man, they did not want Jesus around because they could not control him or understand him.

- So Jesus left!

### **Verse 38-39**

***The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.***

- The once demon-possessed man wanted to accompany Jesus. But Jesus told him to remain there and to tell everyone what God had done for him through Jesus.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Demons*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)